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## NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **NAESP Promotes National Push for Advanced Certification for Educational Leaders**

Alexandria, VA—March 17, 2009—Gail Connelly, executive director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, has joined the steering committee of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), which is composed of educational and business leaders overseeing a national effort to develop an advanced certification for educational leaders (ACEL). This initiative will include an advanced certification for both principals and teacher leaders.

NBPTS, the organization that provides advanced standards and certification for classroom-based teachers and other educators, is creating national core propositions and standards for what educational leaders should know and national evidence-based assessments to measure educational leaders against those standards.

“Many principals go above and beyond the parameters of their jobs to seek out additional learning opportunities. The ACEL program will provide an opportunity for recognition of that commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth,” said Connelly. “We are pleased to lend our full support to this effort.”

Supported by policymakers, administrators, principals, and teachers, the ACEL program is expected to launch in 2011.

“The National Board has built strong standards and assessments for advanced teacher certification, which places our organization in a unique position to carry out the same for educational leaders,” said Joseph A. Aguerrebere, NBPTS president and chief executive officer. “You can have accomplished teachers in a school building, but creating a collaborative culture of learning and achievement requires the support and leadership of an equally accomplished principal and other teacher leaders.”

In a recent NBPTS survey, 83 percent of school-leader respondents and 69 percent of district-leader respondents expressed interest in advanced principal certification. Both school and district-level leaders were most interested in a certification that would better prepare principals to lead systemic instructional improvement.

National Board Certification for K-12 teachers is part of a growing education reform movement that is reshaping America’s schools. In a congressionally mandated report, the National Research Council of the National Academies confirmed that National Board Certified Teachers advance student achievement and learning, stay in the classroom longer, support new and struggling teachers, and assume other school-based leadership roles. The National Research Council also acknowledged that students taught by National Board Certified Teachers make higher gains on achievement tests than students taught by non board-certified teachers.

A program of national certification for principals, overseen by an independent board such as NBPTS and that is based on sound research, will significantly enhance professional development goals for principals and will positively impact the schools they lead.

### **About the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards**

NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nongovernmental organization. NBPTS advances the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for accomplished teaching; creating and administering National Board Certification, a voluntary system to certify teachers who meet those standards; and integrating certified teachers into educational reform efforts. Today, nearly 74,000 National Board Certified Teachers are making a positive difference in the lives of students across the nation.

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*Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves 28,000 pre-K-8 principals in the United States, Canada, and overseas. NAESP leads in the advocacy and support for elementary and middle-level principals and other education leaders in their commitment to all children.*